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Semper Floreat

The University of Queensland
Students' Newspaper

Relax on Bright
Books
WE HAVE THEM—
Wise and
Otherwise
A. McLEOD,
"Brisbane's Best
Bookstore,"
107 ELIZABETH ST.,
BRISBANE.

Vol. 12 — No. 24

Thursday, 14th October, 1943

Registered at G.P.O., Brisbane, for
transmission by post at a periodical.

President Whyte says "Wake Up!"

Appeal for Activity

So the year passes, and once again we scratch in our democratic way for a team of youthful leaders. Their job will be big—as big as they like to make it. They will carry the main executive bundle for over 800 students, handle an income of 800 guineas, and be entrusted with the Union's £2400 backing. But there is more in the Union than just gold, and its members are not to be counted in guineas. There is far more than dirty old Common Rooms. The Union is all that students are, and have, and give. Each student is fitted to the mosaic, and as each piece shines and is coloured, so shall we judge the work of all.

It is not sufficient to elect a President. It is not good enough to drift along, propelled by the energies of a few, following a course set years ago and repeated year by year. Tradition is good, but usually old. We must bear in mind that what we do to-day, if it be valuable and worthy, will be the tradition for the future. We ought all to pause awhile, to reflect, to retrace our course for 1943, to criticise, to select those things that were good, reject those that were bad, and in looking ahead to elections, and to 1944, take a bearing on something that is just a little better, and harder, and fresher, and worthier.

Here are a few random reflections.

UNION PRESIDENT.

I believe we could get better results if there was a little electioneering for the A.G.M. Each nominee for the position, whether nominated by a faction within the University or standing as an "independent," should present to the electors a clear and concise statement of his intended programme for the year. We, the electors, should balance maturity, stability, tact, enthusiasm, leadership, initiative, popularity, and so on, in casting our vote.

After the war, the Presidency should be a full time job, in receipt of an honorarium from the Union, and with academic leave for his term of office.

"SEMPER FLOREAT"—WE STINK?

An Editorial Staff, cross sectioned from all faculties, should control "Semper." The staff should meet to draw up a detailed, progressive programme for the year, to cover all the purposes of a student newspaper as an organ of the Union, and at its weekly meeting to discuss the main theme for that edition, one member would be appointed to summarise the discussion and present it as an editorial. Other members would contribute controversial leading articles on the same topic.

The advantages of such a scheme

would include: (1) An editor would not have to write the whole paper. [Hooray! Ed.] (2) Editorial policy and publications would be more representative of student thought. (3) The paper, working to a programme, would be an asset to the Union, and a contribution to current literature. (4) Each edition would provide a new theme—stimulating and educative—and in itself this would discourage the puerile efforts of the few for pseudo-humorous publicity, and afford more attraction for contributions from the majority of students.

Very few students would oppose me if I stated that an annual collection of "Sempers" is not worth £200.

GROWING UP.

We all come to the University too young, and too inexperienced in everything except swotting. Then, after a year or two, we get growing pains, and looking back, regret that we did not take a keener interest in our early years, in the W.E.S., and the I.R.C., or the Gramophone Society, or "Semper," or the Union. The only cure is by more impressive activity, and a better union of students fresh and old. Our constituent clubs are good, but not good enough. They do not cause enough commotion, which is both the stimulus for, and the outcome of, interest.

And it is depressing to think that when we grow up and graduate and leave this place, we separate and lose sight of all our contemporaries who have been friends during our courses. The Graduate Associations are virtually dead. We, while we are yet friends in the fray, ought to determine to pep up the Grads. Associations, push for the establishment of a University Club, of graduate newsletters, and re-union activities.

APATHETIC LETHARGY—THE OLD, OLD, STORY.

Students are said to be apathetic. Every outgoing Union President buries his misgivings under such an epitaph. Well, I doubt it. Student disinterest is not apathy, but a habit

cultivated by the trend of modern organisation. Executives do too much of which their electors know little. The habit is partially contagious, and by no means improved by a glance at any other aspect of University life—even the staff is not immune, and the Graduates' Council suffers badly. We should occasionally be original, whether it be in dramatics, or debating or what you will.

OUR RELATIONS WITH STAFF.

We can neither employ nor dismiss the staff. Our attendance at their lectures is compulsory. We have no representation on Faculties or on Senate. Our only approach to higher authority is by letter, by influence, or via the Combined Advisory Committee. If we look at it that way, the gap is wide. But most of the staff are good folk, proud to boast of this University as a small but happy family, yet uncomfortably divorced from student opinion and activities. Their attendance at student functions has declined in past years until now it is practically nil. Even their representation to our Council is a mere gesture.

Students are shy of their superiors. It is easier for the staff to initiate approaches. They should strive for better contact with their students, be more approachable, show more interest in student doings by attending, even of combined functions, and all that they approve of or disapprove of—their secretive thoughts concerning "Semper," "Galmahra," and so on, they should express through their Union Council representatives. Their attitude is largely one of "the students should run their own affairs," and of non-interference.

With the development of more intimate relationships, I believe the staff would discover that students are not as irresponsible as they suspect, just as I have found by contact that the staff is not as unconcerned with student problems as many students think. Individual approach is welcomed and enlightening, but when it comes to initiating any such move for a more extensive contact, they withdraw into their academic shells, fearful lest the revelation of their nakedness should lower their prestige.

These jottings are few and sketchy, hand-outs at the conclusion of a Union year, when another Union executive retires to its shell, leaving nought but an unobtrusive pathway.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

SCHUMANN—MECHANIC OR MUSICIAN?

On Friday next the Gramophone Society will play Schumann's Fourth Symphony. Schumann took up composing seriously after a rather peculiar accident. Famous as a concert pianist, he grew dissatisfied with the movement of the middle finger which is the bugbear of all pianists. So he attached the finger to a string and pulley with a weight attached to the end. Thus he would rest the finger while the others were playing. Something went wrong and the finger was irreparably ruined, destroying for the future his career as a pianist, so he took to the composing which has left his name to posterity.

His Fourth Symphony was written soon after his marriage. The struggle to possess his bride against the wishes of her parents is typified by his previous music. The mood changes after his marriage. In that year he wrote over a hundred songs. The Fourth Symphony is full of joyous abandon and merriment. The Spring Symphony it is called and with what truth—his marriage consummated, Schumann gave all his fervour to these works—triumphant marriage-songs for a grateful posterity.

POOR SCHUMANN!

When he went to Dusseldorf he noted that there were three convents and a lunatic asylum. A few years later he was insane himself, and though he had a few moments of lucidity, he died without those faculties which had given so much to music. The Symphony is notable for the excellent transition between the third and fourth movements, and for the use of cyclic themes which were to be used so much by later composers to give a greater unity to their major orchestral works. The work is played by the Paris Mozart Festival Orchestra under Bruno Walter.

NOTICE — APOLOGY

We apologise to those concerned if anything of a confidential nature appeared in last "Semper" in our article on the Combined Advisory. However, our policy in regard to the need for open discussion of the Lecture System at a Staff Student meeting remains unaltered, and we believe that in following this policy we are voicing the opinions of the great majority of our readers.

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE!

In the night of Thursday to Friday—November 16th to 17th, 1939—German armed forces surrounded all University Colleges, Institutes, and other establishments, all student hostels, all the foundations of higher education in Prague, and trained machine-guns on them from the street. At 3.30 exactly a rocket went off as a signal, and this was the order to attack the students, who were sleeping all unwittingly. The assault had the character of gangsters' raid. The armed Germans forced their way into the buildings, and the dormitories, with rifles ready to fire and seized the students while they were still in their night apparel. There were dozens of killed. Some of the students jumped out of the windows trying to escape, but were shot down by the guards. Those who were taken in their beds were savagely beaten.

All of them were dragged out by force, crowded into motor buses and taken to air force barracks in Ruzyn, where they were subjected to sadistic tortures. They were stripped, drenched with icy water and made to lie on the ground the whole night in the ice-cold November weather. Others were compelled to run round the Ruzyn riding-school, urged on by blows from whips and cudgels, until heart and lungs could stand no more. Others again, bound in groups of three, had the lobes of their ears torn, and their eyes struck out by blows from whips. Finally they were forced to cry in chorus, "Wir danken Ihnen" (We thank you). Many atrocities cannot be related as they were inspired by a sexual, sadistic, psychopathic strain by which most of the Gestapo agents and German soldiers seem to be affected.

THE HUN AT HIS WORST.

The Germans also brought to Ruzyn a number of girl students taken especially from their hostel "Budec" in the course of the same nocturnal raid. Many of the girls were dragged on to large open spaces surrounded by tanks and violated in view of the bound male students. The German soldiers burned the breasts of their victims with cigarette ends, while others were forced to drink the contents of spittoons filled with urine, and fell down, sick with disgust. Following upon these tortures they were packed back into the cars like cattle, suffering from hunger and thirst, and carried away to concentration camps. There they suffered all possible physical and moral tortures. After hours of hard labour they were forced each day to

Union Elections

Nominations are at present being called for the Union Elections to be held on Friday week at the A.G.M. "Semper" this year will publish a special final issue, an Election Issue in which will appear election notices concerning the candidates for President, Vice-Presidents, and Hon. Secretary. Intending candidates, or those nominating them, should send to "Semper" before next Tuesday, a brief outline of the career, both academic and otherwise, as well as a reference to the policy of the candidate for the coming year.

Failure to send this information will mean that your qualifications for Presidency, etc., may not be published, and your opponents will thereby be given an advantage!

All members of the Union have a right to vote, and it is up to you to see that your executive body is administered in the way you want it. Roll up to the A.G.M., and see that the right men or women get into office.

ENGINEERS SHOW THE WAY

STAFF-STUDENT MEETING

At the request of the Engineering Undergraduates Society the staff of the Engineering Faculty met the students for a discussion of lecturing methods within the faculty. The meeting took place on Thursday last, and was attended by the whole of the faculty staff, the council of the E.U.S., and the Applied Scientist president of the Science Students' Association. Professor Hawken was chairman of the meeting.

Proceedings were opened by the ex-president of the E.U.S., who outlined previous discussion by the student council and put forward three main points on which they had agreed.

These points were:—

(1) That some form of printed notes on lectures are desirable, as students continually copying notes are unable to understand and follow the lecture, and frequently notes so taken are unreliable and incomplete.

(2) That lecturers themselves, with distributed notes, could take the form of discussion, expansion and explanation of notes.

(3) That every effort should be made to ensure clarity in diagrams given out.

POINTS FROM THE MEETING

Subsequent discussion, originally expected to last about half an hour, stretched to an hour and a quarter,

undergo several hours of "ideological re-education," and they heard speeches slandering all that they loved in the history of their country and of mankind.

After an appeal to the Protector von Neurath, some of them were released. Most of them, however, are still there. The Czech authorities demanded, on the day after the massacres, that they should be given a list of the names of the students executed, but this was refused, while all Universities, Polytechnic Schools and Institutes of Higher Learning have been seized by the Germans and ever since kept closed.

NEXT WEEK—THURSDAY.

International Students' Day will be commemorated by a meeting in the Geol. Theatre, at 1.10 p.m. Students from Czechoslovakia and Austria will speak.

Watch the Notice Boards.

during which many aspects of lecturing systems and student learning activity were brought forward.

On many points regarding difficulties in the note-taking system the staff was more outspoken than the students.

It was generally agreed that continuous note taking was undesirable and that in many subjects "roneoed" notes (printed notes being extremely expensive) would reduce this markedly; but, in the closing stages of discussion, it was pointed out that, in most subjects the textbooks usually give the general idea of the subject matter of the lecture notes, and consequently use of its material should be made, in preference to

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### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27—

A.G.M. Sports Union, at Men's Common Room, 1.10 p.m. Annual Report and Elections.

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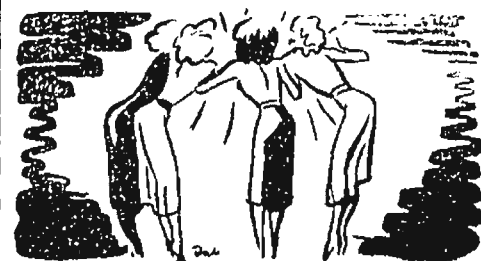
continuously copied-out lecture notes.

It was also said that discussion of lectures by large classes and earlier year students would be difficult, though pertinent questions would be welcomed, but the feasibility of discussion methods in later year subjects was agreed upon. The suggestion that the lecturer discuss roneoed notes in earlier year classes was also considered but it was found that no general principle could be stated.

The necessity for clarity of diagrams was a matter of practical difficulty only and provoked little discussion.

NOTES TO BE PROVIDED

The meeting then closed with the understanding that "roneoed" notes should be provided as far as practicable with the limited facilities available for their production, and that textbooks should be utilised more by students for lecture material than they have been in the past.



PSST-PSST!

Hear the lass who deserted her betrothed at their recent engagement party went home with someone else.

Our young "Friend" offered the very weak explanation that he wanted to scratch his back when discovered inside the doorway of the "Ladies Only" at the Med. School.

Some studes from W.C. and King's discovered that it is not wise to sit in the gutter arranging debates, when the Vice Squad's on the prowl.

First year Med. emulated the mighty Hopkins by being ordered out of Parliament House. The reason was not shorts, but absence of tie.

That Med. prof. is still at it! He is now complaining (sic!) that he sees too much leg on the lawn on his way up to the Med. School.

Believe fresherette who picked up tin labelled "Blue Light Outfit" near the Gardens, took it home to her brother to mend his bike tube with it.

John's Collegiate found it hard to keep "coolie" when A.B.C. announcer interrupted his sonata at the end of the first movement to introduce a Yank baritone!

"Tangle" in the Women's Common Room! Noted 4th year Engineer lost his pullover there, and second year Arts is "Sheddon" tears about it.

A wild Welsh greaser was seen bubbling with joy—and joying with Bubbles. Just how "Green" was his Pally?

Sixth year Med. from Leos complains that messages of an intimate nature have been going astray on their way to Med. School typiste.

Heard Physiotherapist and Scientist, both from W.C., were seen at the U.S. Navy bar trying out a couple of sailors for some Clayfield flat dwellers. Believe they finished the evening being very solley.

AESOP'S FABLES

No. 5.

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Little Red Riding Hood. One day her mother said to her: "Little Red Riding Hood, I want you to take this basket of goodies to your dear Grandma in the forest." So off went the dear little girl to do her mother's bidding, singing a sweet little song as she went. When she arrived at Grandma's cottage she lifted the latch and walked in, and there was Grandma sitting up in bed. "Oh, Grandma, what a naughty look in your eyes!" said L.R.R.H., and Grandma said, "Yes, I'm a wolf!" But L.R.R.H. knew what a wolf was because she had been to the pictures, and she said she felt tired anyway, so she got into bed, too, and they lived happily ever after!

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BRIAN FORD

Vol. 12

Thursday, 14th October, 1943

No. 24

NEOPHOBIA

Although every new, but unsuccessful movement round the place may use it as an excuse for their failure, Neophobia remains, unfortunately, an unpleasant but no less an established entity.

Like the unthinking sheep who follow their leader blindly over the cliff, we mortals follow the established orthodox standards and it takes a genius or a fanatic to change us.

To us, the more intelligent of the community (we hope), this crowd thought—this orthodoxy—this stubborn refusal to change—should be one of the problems we intend to conquer. And it is a conquest worth attempting—crowd thought, with its immense power and cruelty, functioning with sentimental stupidity, and dragging down into its own abysmal lack of intelligence all beauty, art, culture, and science.

In fact, crowd thought levels everything down to its own mentality.

Remember the mob that crucified Christ, and the blood-maddened mob responsible for the horrors of the French Revolution, to quote this mechanism in its most cruel form.

But we to-day are fighting a similar but less bloody mechanism, the obstinate refusal to change. "What was good enough for my father is good enough for me." It's up to us to say:

"Well it's not good enough for us! We want advance, and incidentally our attitude is the one principle by which man has risen from the status of an animal to his present-day civilisation. We will do away with that which is bad and inefficient and we will replace it with better and more efficient methods.

"We want a reorganisation of our Social System, our Political System and our Educational System. When this war is won we want a brave new world," and if we act, we'll get it!

STUDY FOR VICTORY.

Does that mean anything to you? It probably does! With jacaranda blossoms falling on the ground again, studies are wandering round with a gloomy, pessimistic stare and the old, old feeling is beginning to collect somewhere round the lower end of the oesophagus.

Still many of us could take those words as a slogan. Other people are helping the war along, digging for Victory, making munitions for Victory and our coppers in the forces are fighting for Victory. Our particular job happens to be studying, so that we can take our place later on and do useful work for the community.

Our job then is to study, and "Study for Victory" has been a slogan in the English Universities for some years now.

What does it mean? Well there are lots of little things we wouldn't do and there are lots we would do if we followed this phrase as our slogan.

Work hard and play hard. Forget about the picture you wanted to see by ducking that lecture, keep that swotting up-to-date, get all you can out of lectures, use common room discussions to further your knowledge or to formulate some new plan for student activities, take part in the social and cultural side of the Varsity ably supplied by the W.E.S., the I.R.C., the Dramatic Society, Debating Society and Gramophone Society, and keep up both academic and aesthetic interests so that we will be qualified to take a place as leaders, not as peasants, when we graduate from this University.

STUDY FOR VICTORY!

SUBSIDIES NOTICE

If a student is otherwise entitled to assistance for 1944, he will not become ineligible by accepting employment in the coming long vacation, but the Commission will not assist him for the number of weeks that he works in vacation; e.g., if a student works for ten weeks he will receive assistance for forty-two weeks only. The Commission will not deduct the amount earned. The adjustment mentioned will be in respect of the living allowance and will not affect the fees.

CUTHBERT HERE AGAIN

AT DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

At the A.G.M. of the Dramatic Society held last Friday night, in the Men's Common Room, Cuthbert, the U.D.S. talent scout, was once again seen in the University, poking his nose in this and that, and noting with satisfaction the large turn-up to the meeting, which, considering Third Term, Friday night, and pre-exam. hysteria, was a phenomenal one, resulting in the formation of a new policy for the coming year and the election of an enthusiastic executive from among the thirty or so members present.

For the first time in some years, students were elected to the post of President—Bill Alderman and Vice-president—Trevor Whalley, and Eric Brier is to act as Secretary.

Next year, as mentioned elsewhere, the U.D.S. intends to hold as well as a Burlesque, two Three-Act Plays, and a considerable number of One-Act Plays, from Varsity authors for preference, which are to be put on at lunch hours and Wednesday afternoons, as well as in the evening. Closer co-operation is intended with the Debating Society, and production of many of the plays in the programme is to be undertaken by the students.

Serious business over, Cuthbert was then pleased to see a series of short play readings in which every member of the audience participated, including energetic Chester Wilson as compere. Cuthbert tore himself away with difficulty, from contemplation of the beauteous females present to enjoy a liberal supper and to recall to his hearers the time when he furnished the bathroom with a semi-silent Symphonia Septic in Ibsen's Doll's House, and other episodes in his brilliant dramatic career, including those beautiful lines—

"The quality of my septics is not strained,
They sprayeth as the gentle rain
from heaven
Upon your lace beneaths."

From W. C. Shakespeare's play, "Paid My Penny," or "Much Ado About Nothing!"

Finally, seeing that Geranium had found a pottski, and Bill Alderman his moustache, which had been rubbed off during supper into his cup of tea, Cuthbert lost no time in clearing out before washing up, and the meeting was concluded.

AGONY COLUMN

WOULD the persons in temporary possession of the following articles please return them to their rightful owner—M. Whyte.

1. Bound foolscap notes—Comparative Physiology and various odds and ends related thereto.
2. Khaki haversack.
3. Military waterbottle, without cover.
4. Small first aid kit—plus contents.

STUDENT RIPLEY: I gather you are a girl from your writing, so come up and see my etchings, and I'll improve the accusation.—B.

WOULD the persons in temporary possession of the Med. School Notice Board keys, please return them to the office?

UNION NOTICES

TO-DAY—THURSDAY.

The last Union Council Meeting for the year will be held to-night, following on the tea provided for delegates, at 5.30 p.m., in the Men's Common Room.

TO-MORROW—FRIDAY.

Nominations close for the Union A.G.M. . Nominations will be received for the positions of President, four Vice-president President, four Vice-presidents—day, 1 man and 1 woman; evening, 1 man and 1 woman—Hon. Secretary, and must be signed by the nominee and by three members of the Union.

NEXT WEEK—FRIDAY, 22nd.

The Union A.G.M. will be held at 7.30 p.m. in the Geology Theatre. There will be a free dance in the Main Hall following the meeting.

WANTED

AN EDITOR FOR THE N.U.A.U.S. MAGAZINE.

Tentative date of publication 2nd week Second Term. 1944.
Editor will be assisted by Sub-editors in each State.
Send applications to
E. G. LE BRETON,
Local Secretary-Treasurer,
N.U.A.U.S.,
University of Queensland.

CLOSING DATE: OCTOBER 30th.

POME

"The turtle
Lives
Tween plated decks,
Which practically
Conceal
Its sex.
I think it clever of
The turtle,
In such a fix, to be so
Fertile."

We can always be wiser for someone else than we can for ourselves.
—W. D. Howells.

When there is doubt, supplant it with action.
—Thomas Carlyle.



Dress Order Of the Day

Whether your job is on Active Service or helping some Voluntary War Effort, select your Clothing Requirements at . . .

PIKE

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Cricketers Put Up Good Show

But A Grade Still Down

Last Saturday saw one of the black days of Varsity cricket turn up, though the weather was most inordinately bright by comparison. The "B's" went down to ignominious and total defeat, while the "A's" nearly followed their example. Another two minutes would have been enough for this to have occurred, but for Eddie Dunn's tenacity in keeping his wicket intact.

In the A Grade match, played at Langland's Park, Skipper Mahoney won the toss and elected to bat on a perfect wicket. This was a very good omen—until the great Hoare, who did so well against Norths in the previous game, snicked the first ball of the innings into the safe hands of Guttormsen at first slip. Eddie Dunn then proceeded to a stay at the wicket, which would have been indefinite if he hadn't lifted a ball to long hit, where, unfortunately, one of the opposition had the temerity to catch it. Still, it was a very useful innings, and was a second top score in our rather modest total of 165.

QUINN WAS QUICK.

Eventually Red Quinn went in for his knock, and provided the sensation of the game by waving his bat at fast and slow bowlers alike, for two sixers and eight fours in a total of 79 not out—a very good piece of work. The rest of the team went more or less for a hit, Hoyling getting 24, while we had to bat one short owing to the absence of Alec Price.

Anyway, that left them with 166 to get to pass us, and that is generally a formidable task against a Varsity A Grade—when the fielding is up to its usual standard. Yes, you've guessed it—it wasn't. Three or four chances missed early against men who went on to make a score, plus several out-of-season footballers, who would persist in kicking fours, easily allowed the Easterners to rake up 260.

DUNN DOES SOME DERMIS.

Our second innings began with 95 to get before we were on the board, and it took just under eight wickets to do it. Up to this stage McMahon had made 26 in good style, but Quinn, unfortunately, did not come to light, a side-wager of two bob that he wouldn't make 20 no doubt affecting his nerves. Eventually we did get past their total, but the closing few minutes of the innings were tense as the tail-enders passed the innings defeat stage, and played out time. Once again Dunn played a very good knock for 27, only to be run out at the last ball of the day, in spite of a flying dive which he took along the pitch. Alas! in vain. The ground there is now enriched by about a square foot of skin which once adorned his arm, and everyone thought the effort was worth being given as in, except the umpire, who apparently wanted to catch a train or something.

Once again this match has shown that our batsmen are not content to potter round the wicket, spending time and energy in keeping in, and some

tendencies in this direction are well worth encouraging. Bright cricket is all right in its place, but good tactics is also something worth turning on on occasions.

Scores: Varsity, first innings 165, second innings 108; Easts, first innings 260. Won by Easts on the first innings.

BAD SHOW IN B GRADE

"B's" WERE N.B.G.

Like the A Grade, the "B's" suffered defeat, only theirs was an even worse showing. Actually, although the defeat was outright, it was at the hands of what is probably the strongest team in the grade, and we had only three of the players who represented us against Norths. Two of our players were promoted to the higher grade, and on their performance look like staying there.

The match was thrown away in Easts first innings by unbelievably bad fielding which, fortunately, was not repeated in the second fielding session. Once again our early batsmen failed, Forster, Farnelli and Jones being the only ones to get double figures. The only bowler to impress in Easts first turn at the wickets was fresher Clark, although ironically enough he failed to take a wicket. He swung the ball away to the off, and showed great pace off the wicket. If it were possible to get this lad a little coaching he should develop into a first class speed merchant.

SULLIVAN WAS SLICK.

In their second innings, our fast bowlers were always on top, both McGregor and Clark worrying the batsmen. A feature of this innings was the fielding of Sullivan, who always shows anticipation and fields cleanly and keenly. He is easily our best find to date, being a first class slow bowler and an excellent aggressive batsman as well as the outstanding man in the field.

Individual efforts show that we have the talent, and we trust that soon all players will strike form together with devastating results for the opposition—we hope.

Scores: Easts (161) defeated Varsity (67) by 68 runs.

For that Photograph

**ROY
COOPER
STUDIOS**

101 Adelaide St., Brisbane

(Between Arcade and Albert Street)

Dress Expert Tells of Man the Fool!

It has been rightly said that a man is a fool. In spite of the great amount of time and money devoted to his education he is still a creature of habit rather than a thinking being. His actions are largely dominated by his emotions and he is an ever-willing slave to foolish traditions. The way we men dress in the sweaty summer season is one of many examples of the tyranny of tradition—or shall we call it the tyranny of fashion. Over the centuries our forefathers in Europe have designed a very serviceable costume of coat, vest and trousers; it was planned to keep the body warm. We, in tropical Queensland, have followed this cold country fashion so slavishly that, until recent years, any man who did not wear a vest as well as a coat would be considered uncouth and uncultured. It just wasn't done!

It seems extraordinary that thinking people could have acquiesced so long in this foolishness and now, even though fashion rebels have for years been wearing two-piece suits there still exist the conservative minded who prefer to incubate their bodies in heavy three-piece garments throughout the summer months thereby increasing discomfort, undermining their health and lowering their efficiency. Why do men behave in this illogical manner? Is it due to gregariousness or to "stick in the mud" conservatism or to Neophobia? From time immemorial this attitude of mind has been the stumbling block to every reform. Often opposition of dumb humanity has been so great that many worthy reforms have been abandoned by those who saw the need and undertook the thankless task of the reformer.

We can remember how those innovations we now take for granted were once scoffed at and ridiculed by "the herd." The almost universally worn wrist-watch is an example. When Baden Powell first advocated it those who had the courage to follow his example were regarded as being effeminate in spite of its unquestionable utility as has been shown by its universal acceptance throughout the world to-day. People did not stop to reason that it is much more convenient to glance at the wrist than to take a watch out of the pocket and replace it. All this goes to show that man in the mass is not only intellectually lazy but lacks the courage to break away from the accepted customs of "the herd." The wearing of coats during the summer months is a good example of both of these characteristics because no logical argument can be put forward to maintain the stupid coat-wearing convention.

Realising that improper clothing has an important bearing on health, the B.M.A. (Queensland Branch) formed a Men's Summer Dress Reform Committee for the purpose of giving a lead in this much needed reform. It was pointed out that the wearing of a coat during the hot weather interferes with the normal physiological functioning of the body and, therefore, impairs health, efficiency and the sense of well being.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO.

In planning reform it is important to remember that, as already shown "the herd" is not easily coaxed into accepting new ideas. If the reform is too radical the few who follow it will be considered eccentric, and merely a change of convention such

sacrifice neatness and tidiness; it is as women underwent when they changed from high collars to open necks and from ankle to knee high skirts. We are definitely opposed to makeshift reforms such as taking off the coat, exposing a sweaty shirt and rolling up the sleeves, etc., because this gives the appearance of untidiness and is, in fact, a slovenly reaction to the need for more suitable clothing. Untidiness in dress diminishes aesthetic awareness and therefore leads to untidiness in other habits. The only excuse that has been put forward is that without a coat and vest there is not enough pocket space for the numerous things the reform will fail, therefore any measures adopted must be only a moderate breakaway from accepted standards. Accordingly we devised a coat short which is a garment made like a lumber jacket to take the place of both coat and shirt. It is important to remember that, to keep the body cool, as much air as possible should circulate around the body; for this reason we advocate the wearing of braces instead of a belt so that an insulating current of air can pass between the trousers and the abdomen. At the same time, the waist of the coat shirt should be sufficiently loose to allow air to flow freely upwards over the thorax.

DON'T LET THE WOMEN BEAT YOU.

A reform of this type should not some people carry on their person. To those people whose habits are so slovenly that their pockets are filled with papers and gadgets, which should be on their desk, there is no answer except to advise them to learn better habits.

HATS OFF FOR HEALTH.

Another unnecessary convention for most people who work in offices is the wearing of a hat. We leave our homes, ride to town in a tram or car and spend most of our time indoors yet most people feel that they should wear a hat. As it has little utility value, do they think its ornamental value outweighs the advantages of the cooler head and a cleaner scalp of the man who goes bareheaded, or is it that they just don't think.

In the question of dress reform, after satisfying themselves that the measure advocated improve health, efficiency and well-being without sacrificing the aesthetic, the University community should give a positive lead by adopting them. The herd will then very slowly but surely follow.

Dr. L. J. NYE,
M.S.D.R. Committee.